

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A suction tube for a vacuum cleaner comprising:

an outer pipe (8);

an inner pipe (4) received in said outer pipe (8), the inner pipe having an outer surface and an inner surface and being provided axially with a row of detent holes, each of which penetrates through the wall of the inner pipe from said outer surface to said inner surface;

a locking device (20) having a detent pin (6) for positioning said inner pipe (4) with respect to said outer pipe (8);

a guiding bush (2) attached to said outer pipe (8), a first guiding member disposed at the guiding bush (2); and

a second guiding member attached to said inner pipe (4), being engageable and slidable with said the first guiding member so that said inner pipe (4) and said outer pipe (8) can move axially with respect to each other, ~~characterized in that said inner pipe (1) is provided axially with a row of detent holes (9), each of which penetrates through the wall of the inner pipe (1);~~ ;

an a separate inner liner layer is fixed onto the inner wall surface of said inner pipe (4) for isolating vacuum of the inner pipe from the detent holes, ~~said~~ ; and

wherein said detent pin (6) of said locking device is inserted into one of said detent holes (9) when said locking device (20) is in a locking state, and disengages with the detent hole when said locking device (20) is in an unlocking state.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A suction tube for a vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said locking device further comprises a detent pin boss (3) fixed to said guiding bush (2), a spring (5) connected to the detent pin (6), and a detent shifting fork (10) whose one end is connected to the detent pin (6) and the middle part thereof is connected rotatably to the detent pin boss (3).

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A suction tube for a vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 2, wherein said locking device includes a casing (4) having a hatch at its side, and the other end of said detent shifting fork (10) extends toward out of the hatch of the casing (4) and forms a button (7).

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A suction tube for a vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second guiding member is a guiding slot (13) axially disposed at the outside wall surface of said inner pipe (1), and said first guiding member is a guiding rib (11) axially disposed at the inside wall of said guiding bush (2) and slidably moved within said guiding recess (13).

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A suction tube for a vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 4, wherein said detent holes (9) are disposed at said guiding slot (13).

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A suction tube for a vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inner liner layer is an inner liner tube (12) having an outer surface and an inner surface and which is provided at its outer wall surface with a groove (14) extending axially along said inner liner tube (12) and facing said detent holes (9).

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A suction tube for a vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 6, wherein a clearance is provided between the outer surface of the inner liner tube (12) and the inner surface of the inner pipe (1), and when the locking device (20) is in the locking state, the detent pin (6) penetrates through one of the detent holes (9) and inserts into the clearance.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A suction tube for a vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 6, wherein said inner liner tube (12) is provided with end sealing members at two ends of said groove (14) to block the clearance between the outer wall surface of said inner liner tube (12) and the inner wall surface of said inner pipe (1).